

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): A heat exchanger for cooling gaseous or liquid media, particularly an exhaust heat exchanger for an internal combustion engine, with a tubular housing which has at least one inlet opening with an adjoining annular duct for the distributed flow of a cooling medium into the interior of the housing, the annular duct (10) being formed on the outside of the housing (2) by a duct housing (9) surrounding a housing section at a distance and the annular duct (10) being connected to the housing interior via passage openings (13 to 16) distributed over the circumference of the housing (2), characterized in that the passage openings (13 to 16) are designed as slots which extend at an axial distance from one another over part of the housing circumference

and, together with the duct housing (9) having a corrugated tube section (20), form an expansion element (18).

Claim 11 (New): The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 10, wherein next to the corrugated tube section (20) the duct housing (9) has a cylindrical housing part (19) which adjoins in the axial direction and on which the inlet opening (11) with the inlet branch (12) is arranged.

Claim 12 (New): The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 10, wherein the housing (2) is provided at the ends on the longitudinal sides with a respective flange (3, 4) for the connection of an exhaust pipe, and in that the expansion element (18) is provided at that end of the housing (2) which lies on the exhaust gas inflow side (5).

Claim 13 (New): The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 10, wherein the duct housing (2) is designed as a sheet-metal part which is connected tightly at one end to the housing (2) and at the other end to the flange (3) on the entry side.

Claim 14 (New): The heat exchanger as claimed in claim 10, wherein the expansion element (18) is surrounded by a protective covering (21).